

February 28, 2021

My name is Amanda Royce and I live in Shelton CT. I am in support of House Bill 6517. This bill is important to me as both a CT educator and a parent of a child with dyslexia. It has been my experience that the teachers of Connecticut strive to do what is best for students and it is my belief that this bill will help to ensure pre-service candidates and in-service educators receive an appropriate education in Structured Literacy.

Structured literacy and teacher training will ensure that the academic needs of students with dyslexia will be met in their home district. Additionally it will help to address gaps in teacher knowledge. As an educator, I cannot stress how important teacher training is to ensure the success of students. This bill will ensure the needs of students with dyslexia are met but it will also support the development of all students. Structured literacy benefits all students but is critical for students with dyslexia, years of research surrounding the science of reading support this approach.

As a parent, I can attest to the impact that teacher training can have on a child. The knowledge base of a teacher has a lasting impact. My son is able to name the teachers that created an environment where he felt supported emotionally and academically. These years make a difference in a child's self confidence, view of self, and academic success. Children with dyslexia deserve for their teachers to be educated in a structured literacy approach. It is important that teachers have the tools they need to create classrooms where all students can grow and thrive. Reading is a critical skill in life and House Bill 6517 ensures that students are given the best opportunity to learn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Royce
Shelton